

## EXAMINATION OF EAST RIVER AT RAVENSWOOD, LONG ISLAND.

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JANUARY 22, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HOOKER, from the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany House Res. No. 495.]

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors, to whom was referred the resolution (House Res. No. 495) relative to the examination of the East River at Ravenswood, Long Island, submit the following report:

Consulting the map of the pier line recently adopted by the engineers of the War Department, the committee find that the eastern and western channels of the East River have a nearly uniform width of 750 to 1,000 feet, while this particular part of the eastern channel, at Ravenswood, is less than 600 feet in width for a distance of about 1,000 feet; that the pier line cuts loosely into the shore, and that beyond this line there are ledges of rock running up and down the river, on which the water is so shallow that neither vessels nor lighters can approach the shore line except at the highest tides.

The United States Government having taken no steps to remove this rock, the owners of the water front are almost entirely deprived of its use. The Government has not only failed to improve the channel, but it will not permit the owners of the water front to extend temporary docks, although they have offered to do so and to remove them as soon as the Department wishes to excavate. No streets are open to the water front, because they must be useless without docks extending to an adequate depth of water for the admission of vessels of any class of however light draft.

The channel at its present width is also too narrow for the safety and convenience of the hundreds of large steamers and the many sailing vessels which necessarily pass through it every month. It may be easily and cheaply widened, and, at the particular point to which this resolution refers, it would seem to be actually necessary for commercial and business purposes.

The committee recommend that the resolution be amended by adding after the word "water" the words "the expense incurred in pursuance of this resolution shall be defrayed from the balances available from previous appropriations for the improvement of the East River."

And the committee recommend that the resolution, as so amended, do pass.